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MELISSA A. KLATZKOW§

MICHAEL J. WALKER

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March 25, 2019

**VIA EMAIL ONLY**

70285-74212688@requests.muckrock.com

Mackenzie Farkus

**Re: Open Records Act Request Dated March 20, 2019**

Dear Ms. Farkus:

We are in receipt of your approval of the pre-retrieval estimate for records responsive to your request provided to you on March 20, 2019. Accompanying this correspondence are records responsive to your request. These documents were redacted according to O.C.G.A. § 50-18-72(a)(20)(A).

Please note, to efficiently respond to your request, we have omitted some duplicative emails. If you would like to receive copies of any of the omitted records, please advise and we will be happy to provide them to you. Per the representative of Forsyth County Voter Registration & Elections, the email accounts of relevant employees for the Department of Elections were searched for “Big Creek” OR “First Redeemer” OR “problem” OR “precinct” OR “polling place” for emails sent between November 6, 2018 and November 8, 2018. If you would like to discuss alternate search criteria, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please note that, upon proceeding with your request, it came to our attention that there were fewer responsive emails than anticipated. Accordingly, due to the *de minimis* number of responsive documents, there is no charge for the enclosed documents.

JARRARD & DAVIS, LLP

Page 2 of 2

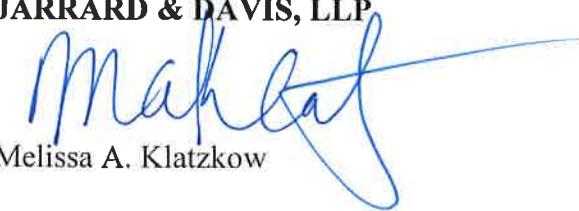
Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please feel free to contact this office to discuss it further.

Sincerely,

**JARRARD & DAVIS, LLP**

Melissa A. Klatzkow

MAK/nls  
Enclosures (as stated)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melissa A. Klatzkow".

## Grace Stacy

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**From:** Blake West <bwest@calvaryalpharetta.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 8, 2018 8:53 PM  
**To:** Smith, Mandi B.  
**Subject:** RE: A problem from yesterday

That will work perfect. I'll see you then.

## Blake West

**Pastor** CALVARYCHAPELALPHARETTA  
Phone 770.442.8167 Mobile 801.971.8277  
Address 200 James Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004  
Website [www.calvaryalpharetta.com](http://www.calvaryalpharetta.com)  
Email [bwest@calvaryalpharetta.com](mailto:bwest@calvaryalpharetta.com)



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**From:** Smith, Mandi B. <[MBSmith@forsythco.com](mailto:MBSmith@forsythco.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 8, 2018 1:30 PM  
**To:** Blake West <[bwest@calvaryalpharetta.com](mailto:bwest@calvaryalpharetta.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: A problem from yesterday

Good Afternoon Blake,

How about next Thursday, November 15 at 1pm?

Donald and I will meet you at the church at that time if that works for you.

Thank you!

*-Mandi*

**Mandi Smith** | Deputy Director  
Forsyth County Voter Registrations & Elections  
1201 Sawnee Drive | Cumming, Georgia 30040  
(770) 781-2118, ext. 2577 | (770) 886-2825 fax  
[forsythco.com](http://forsythco.com) | Your Community. Your Future.

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**From:** Blake West <[bwest@calvaryalpharetta.com](mailto:bwest@calvaryalpharetta.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 7, 2018 3:11 PM

**To:** Smith, Mandi B. <[MBSmith@forsythco.com](mailto:MBSmith@forsythco.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: A problem from yesterday

Thanks Mandi.

Mon, Wed, or Thurs afternoons are open for me next week...

## Blake West

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Phone 770.442.8167 Mobile 801.971.8277  
Address 200 James Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004  
Website [www.calvaryalpharetta.com](http://www.calvaryalpharetta.com)  
Email [bwest@calvaryalpharetta.com](mailto:bwest@calvaryalpharetta.com)



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**From:** Smith, Mandi B. <[MBSmith@forsythco.com](mailto:MBSmith@forsythco.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 7, 2018 2:18 PM  
**To:** Blake West <[bwest@calvaryalpharetta.com](mailto:bwest@calvaryalpharetta.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: A problem from yesterday

Good Afternoon Blake,

Thank you for the well wishes – overall yesterday did go fairly smooth – but it was certainly a busy day.

That being said – I am terribly sorry for what has happened to your parking lot. We certainly value the relationship our Department has with you and Calvary Chapel and we are saddened that what should have been a positive experience for both of us has resulted in the destruction of your yard. Thank you for letting me know. I have reached out to our Risk Management Department for additional guidance as to what/how we fix the parking lot issue—and I will let you know as soon as I hear back from them.

We do not know yet if a Runoff will be necessary in December. We may not know until the end of this week or beginning of next week –it may be until after the election is certified statewide. We definitely appreciate your caution about the next election. We would certainly be willing to take extra measures to ensure this sort of thing does not happen in the future; including putting out cones/signs to prohibit voter's from parking where they should not park, as well as having additional deputies on site to ensure voter's are only using approved parking spaces.

Turnout at all polling places in Forsyth County yesterday was extremely high and given the turnout we will be re-evaluating each location as we usually do after major elections.

Do you have some time to meet with myself and Donald Glover, the Chairman of the Board of Voter Registrations and Elections next week to discuss the continued use of Calvary Chapel as a polling place? We would very much like to meet with you in person, if it works with your schedule. If possible, please let me know a few times when you could meet and then we will take it from there.

(Just to let you know --the equipment pickup crew is on their way now to pick up the voting equipment at the Church; so you may see them shortly, if you are still at the Church).

Again, I am terribly sorry this has happened. We want to make it right and I will work hard to make it right.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

*-Mandi*

**Mandi Smith** | Deputy Director

Forsyth County Voter Registrations & Elections  
1201 Sawnee Drive | Cumming, Georgia 30040  
(770) 781-2118, ext. 2577 | (770) 886-2825 fax  
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**From:** Blake West <[bwest@calvaryalpharetta.com](mailto:bwest@calvaryalpharetta.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 7, 2018 12:03 PM

**To:** Smith, Mandi B. <[MBSmith@forsythco.com](mailto:MBSmith@forsythco.com)>

**Subject:** A problem from yesterday

Good morning, Mandi.

I hope yesterday was smooth and that you are all recovering well 😊

The turnout was pretty substantial here, which led to some heavy parking issues, especially in the AM hours. We saw the same thing happen at the 2016 presidential election.

The parking lot filled, which led to people parking on the grass, which led to people parking in our front yard. Because of the heavy rain 2 people ended up getting stuck in our front yard. One lady gave it her all to get out on her own, to no avail. A wrecker had to pull them both out. See attached picture. If there was a visually open space where someone could squeeze a car, that's where they parked.

That's one issue.

The other issue is future elections at our facility. Has the district outgrown our parking capacity? We own the lot across the street – grass, flat, unused – where overflow traffic could be directed, but this would make pedestrians have to cross over James Rd near a limited sight distance hill where Martin Dr. T's into James Rd. The officer who was here would be able to provide his insight and recommendations as to what he saw.

All that to say, a conversation needs to be had before the next election. I'm not sure if the December runoff is on or off...

Thanks for your time and sorry to bring you a headache.

**Blake West**

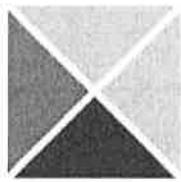
**Pastor** CALVARYCHAPELALPHARETTA

Phone 770.442.8167 Mobile 801.971.8277

Address 200 James Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004

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Email [bwest@calvaryalpharetta.com](mailto:bwest@calvaryalpharetta.com)



CALVARY CHAPEL ALPHARETTA  
UPWARD > ONWARD

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## Grace Stacy

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**From:** Ivan Cottrell < >  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 8, 2018 3:13 PM  
**To:** 'Smith, Mandi B.'  
**Subject:** 2018 election process

Mandi,

I want to thank you for all the training and support you provided us Poll Workers this year. The equipment we had, provided just two hiccups, but keep on chugging like a Timex.

When I read of all the problems in counties around us this morning, I had to sent you a thank you. Forsyth was ready!

Our voters mentioned, to many of us, how efficient and smooth voting was this year at Polo. A lot of that is because we were so well prepared.

Thanks for all your personal interest and involvement in training our teams and providing equipment that did its' job.

Ivan Cottrell  
Proud Manger of Polo Precinct

## Grace Stacy

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**From:** CDClark@forsythco.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 8, 2018 11:40 AM  
**To:** MBSmith@forsythco.com  
**Cc:** HCHammons@forsythco.com  
**Subject:** RE: Question about Parking Lot Problem at a Polling Place  
**Attachments:** E774FF83.jpg

Mandi,

My apologies I was in offsite meetings yesterday – congrats on another successful election! In this instance I would just reach out to the pastor and if he asks for assistance then you can advise him that you will turn it over to the Risk Management Department and put a claim into the Origami Portal. If we do receive the claim and he would like to pursue a claim against the county for damage to the church property we will then investigate what our liability/obligations are and make a determination if we will pay.

He would need to proceed with any repairs and/or claim with their insurance company to go ahead and get the process started – if we accepted liability (whole or partial) we would likely just reimburse their expenses.

Hope this helps and you can call Heather or I if you have any additional questions or concerns and you may also direct the Pastor to contact Risk Management if he has additional questions as well.

**Charity D. Clark | Risk & Safety Manager**  
Forsyth County Risk Management  
3520 Settingdown Road | Cumming, Georgia 30028  
(770) 886-2837 | (678) 513-5910 fax  
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**From:** Smith, Mandi B.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 7, 2018 12:45 PM  
**To:** Clark, Charity D. <CDClark@forsythco.com>  
**Subject:** Question about Parking Lot Problem at a Polling Place

Good Afternoon Charity,

Happy Day After Election Day!!

The pastor from Calvary Chapel has reached out to me today regarding an issue they experienced at the polling place yesterday.

Please see attached photo. He said that a wrecker had to pull out two voter's cars after they had tried unsuccessfully to remove themselves from the church yard.

They are the polling location for the voters in the Brandywine precinct in the southwest corner of the county. The address is 200 James Road, 30004.

He has not specifically requested the assistance of the county to pay for/fix the lot – but – he has brought this to our attention and I want to be proactive about what I say back to him.

How does this work? -- is this something we go through your department for?

Do I ask to find out if he is looking for assistance with the mess?

Does he send us the bill? Do we have to go out and inspect it first?

His email just a came a few minutes ago – and I have not actually spoken to him yet – I wanted to check with you first.

Any advice would be very much appreciated.

Thank you!

*-Mandi*

**Mandi Smith** | Deputy Director  
Forsyth County Voter Registrations & Elections  
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## Grace Stacy

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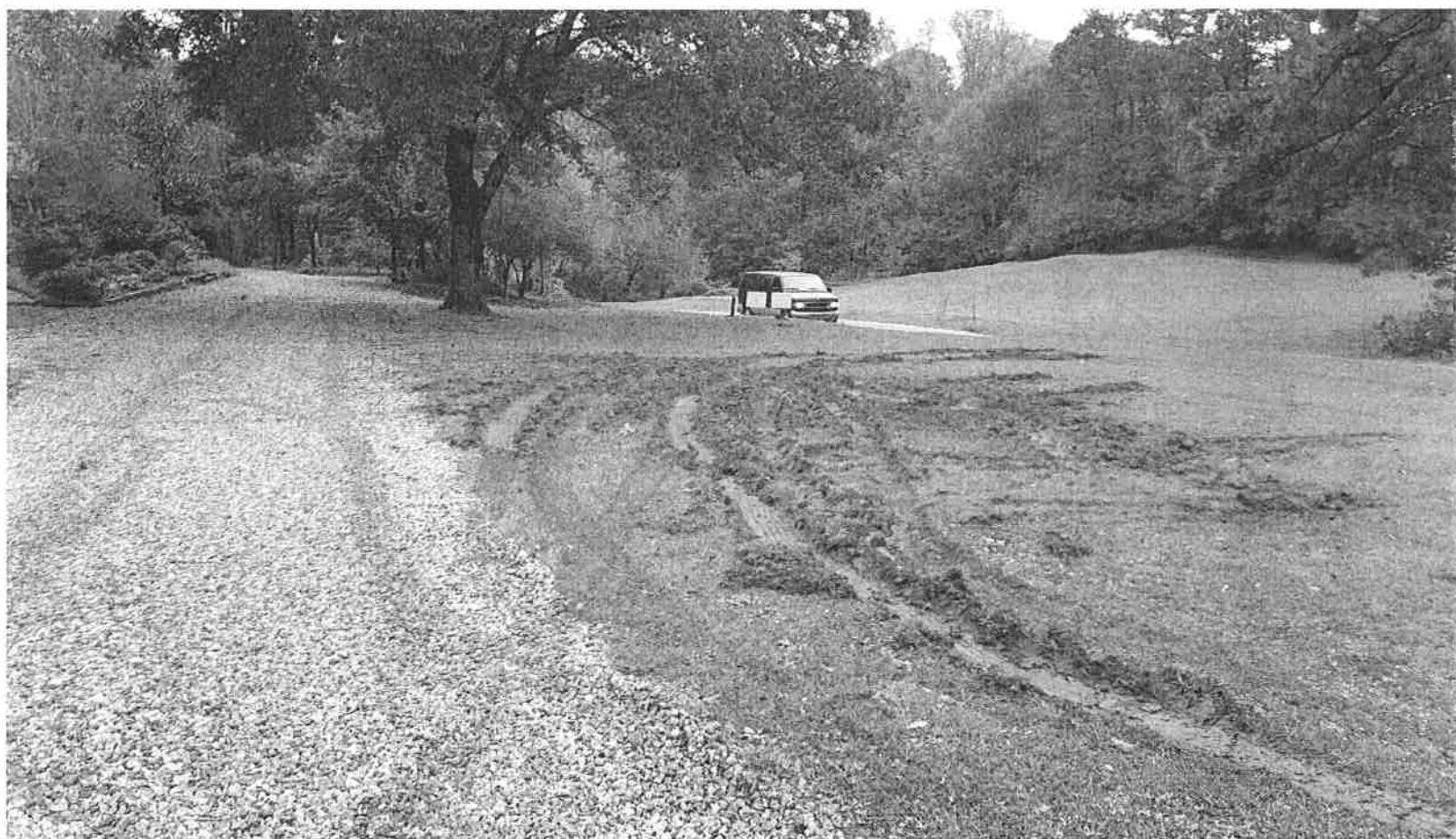
Any advice would be very much appreciated.

Thank you!

*-Mandi*

**Mandi Smith** | Deputy Director  
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## Grace Stacy

---

**From:** MBSmith@forsythco.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 7, 2018 12:25 PM  
**To:** BLLuth@forsythco.com  
**Subject:** FW: A problem from yesterday  
**Attachments:** E774FF83.jpg

-Mandi

**Mandi Smith** | Deputy Director  
Forsyth County Voter Registrations & Elections  
1201 Sawnee Drive | Cumming, Georgia 30040  
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## Blake West

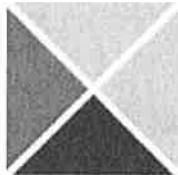
Pastor CALVARYCHAPELALPHARETTA

Phone 770.442.8167 Mobile 801.971.8277

Address 200 James Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004

Website [www.calvaryalpharetta.com](http://www.calvaryalpharetta.com)

Email [bwest@calvaryalpharetta.com](mailto:bwest@calvaryalpharetta.com)



CALVARYCHAPELALPHARETTA

UPWARD ➔ ONWARD

## **Grace Stacy**

---

**From:** Kerry Keough <  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 6, 2018 5:09 PM  
**To:** voter@forsythco.com  
**Subject:** First Redeemer/Big Creek

I have been voting at Big Creek for over a decade and today it took the longest ever with turn out similar to the pres election. What happened. Why couldn't we wait inside. Why was their not better line management

--  
Kerry Keough  
404.939.3252